

a1 authenticating means for performing authentication based
on a comparison result of said comparing means.

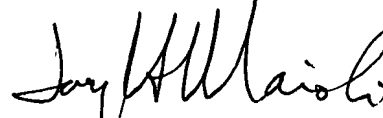
REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain in the application with claim 5 having
been amended hereby.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 5 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--5. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said storage means comprises first storage means and further comprising:

second storage means for storing said [transformed] predetermined value;

first read-out means for reading-out said transformed predetermined value stored in said management area of said first storage means,

inverse transforming means for inverse-transforming said transformed predetermined value stored in said management area of said first storage means, where an inverse-transform of said inverse-transforming means corresponds to said transform performed by said transforming means,

second read-out means for reading-out said [transformed] predetermined value stored in said second storage means,

comparing means for comparing an inverse-transformed value of said inverse-transforming means with said

[transformed] predetermined value read out from said second read-out means, and

authenticating means for performing authentication based on a comparison result of said comparing means.